



TRIBAL ART
SOCIETY

Saturday
June 1st
2024



ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXXVIII

JUNE ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Asian art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

  /TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: detail of a Fon
Figure. Presented by James
Stephenson on p. 38

JUNE ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail address.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select members, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.



01

BIDJOGO MASK

Vaca Bruto mask

Bidjogo

Guinea-Bissau

Late 19th - Early 20th century

Wood, pigments, metal, plant fiber,
raffia

Height: 70 cm

Provenance:

Private collection, France

Price on request

Along the coast of Guinea-Bissau, thirty islands form the Bidjogo archipelago. Bidjogo masks are worn on, or in front of, a dancer's head during initiation ceremonies related to societies that group the Bidjogo people by age groups. They symbolize indigenous animals such as cows, sharks and fish. The movements of the dancer wearing one of these masks reflect the nature of the animal he or she embodies.

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02

LOBI SCULPTURE

Bateba Phuwe Sculpture

Lobi

Burkina Faso

Early 20th century

Wood

Height: 40 cm

Provenance:

J.P. Delcourt, France

G.F. Scanzi (1936-2017), Italy

Publications:

Scanzi, Giovanni F. L'art

traditionnel Lobi. Bergamo: Ed.

Milanos, 1993, p. 164, n°123

Price: 4.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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03

A DRAMATIC HELMET MASK

Mask

Wum region, Cameroons

Early 20th century or earlier

One of the cheeks has been broken and repaired. Glass bead attached to a nose ring

33 cm x 22 cm x 36 cm

Provenance:

Romy Rey collection

Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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04

A MACANA HAND CLUB

Club

Guyana

Vegetal Fibre, Wood

Length: 38,4 cm

Provenance:

René D'harnoncourt, New York

Anne D'harnoncourt, Philadelphia

Joseph J. Rishel, Philadelphia Nov 21,
2022, Sotheby's- Art of Africa, Oceania.
and The Americas 2200

Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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05

ABORIGINAL SHIELD

Shield with extensive, engraved
designs to the face

Victoria, Australia

19th century

Length: 85 cm

Width: 13 cm at the widest point

Price on request

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06

AINU RITUAL IMPLEMENT

Ritual implement

Ainu

Hokkaido islands, Japan

Wood, native repaair

Diam.: 41 cm

Price: 1.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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07

AITOS

Ancestor figure
Los Palos, East Timor
19th to early 20th century
Wood
Height: 86 cm
Price on request

This archaic-style sculpture reflects a kinship with the celebrated *ana deo* ancestor figures of the nearby island of Flores. It succeeds with a minimum of contrivance yet a maximum of effect. With its compact in scale and fantastic patina, it really conveys a strong sense of ancestral antiquity.

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08

BEMBE CHARM

Charm

Bembe

D.R. of the Congo

19th century

Height: 12,7 cm

Provenance:

Old French collection

Price: 1.000 euros

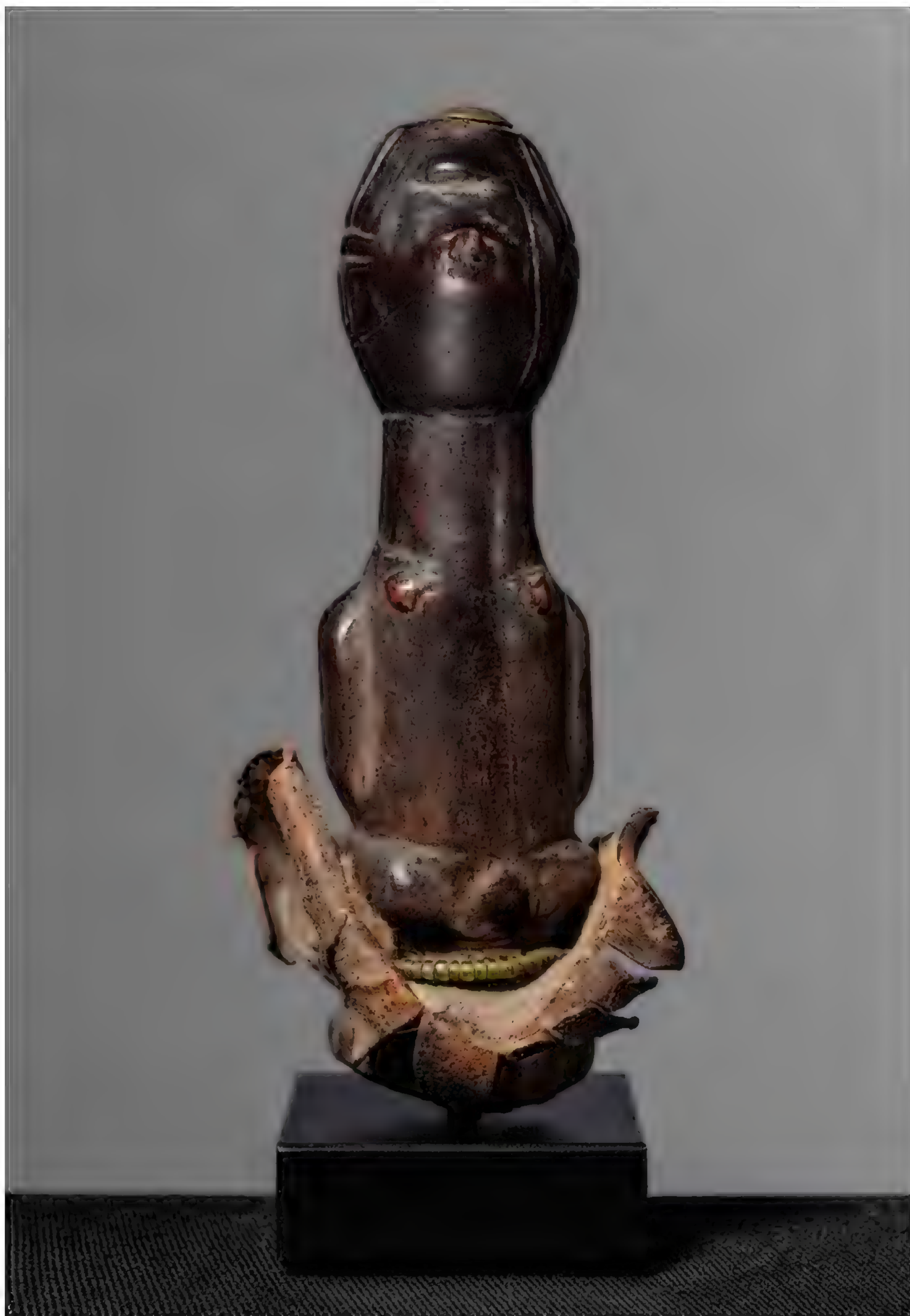
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09

BOCIO FETISH

Figure

Fon

Benin

Late 19th - Early 20th century

Wood, metal, cloth

Height: 34,3 cm

Provenance:

Jacques Kerchache

Private collection, New York

Price on request

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10

CHOKWE BOX

Tobacco box

Chokwe

Angola

Late 19th - early 20th century

Ivory and fibers

Height: 7 cm

Provenance:

Private collection, United Kingdom

Price: 1.800 euros

The vast majority of Chokwe objects are decorated with geometric figures and motifs. As the Chokwe came into contact with Europeans as early as the 18th century, some objects bear witness to a European influence.

Prestigious and everyday objects decorated with figurative motifs are numerous, especially in post-1860 styles. Tobacco boxes, carved in wood or ivory, were created for the use of courtiers.

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11

DAN COMB

Comb

Dan

Ivory Coast

Early 20th century

Wood

Height: 28,5 cm

Provenance:

Joseph Herman, United Kingdom

Price:



OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

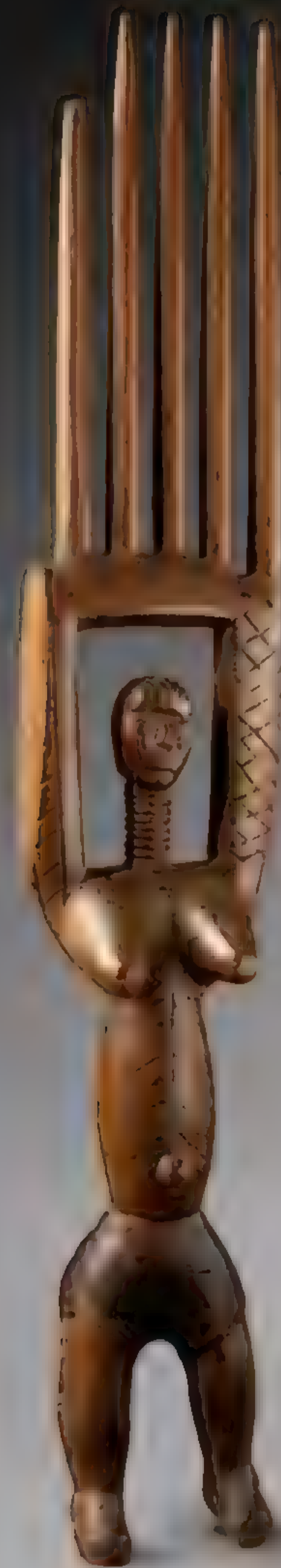
David Serra

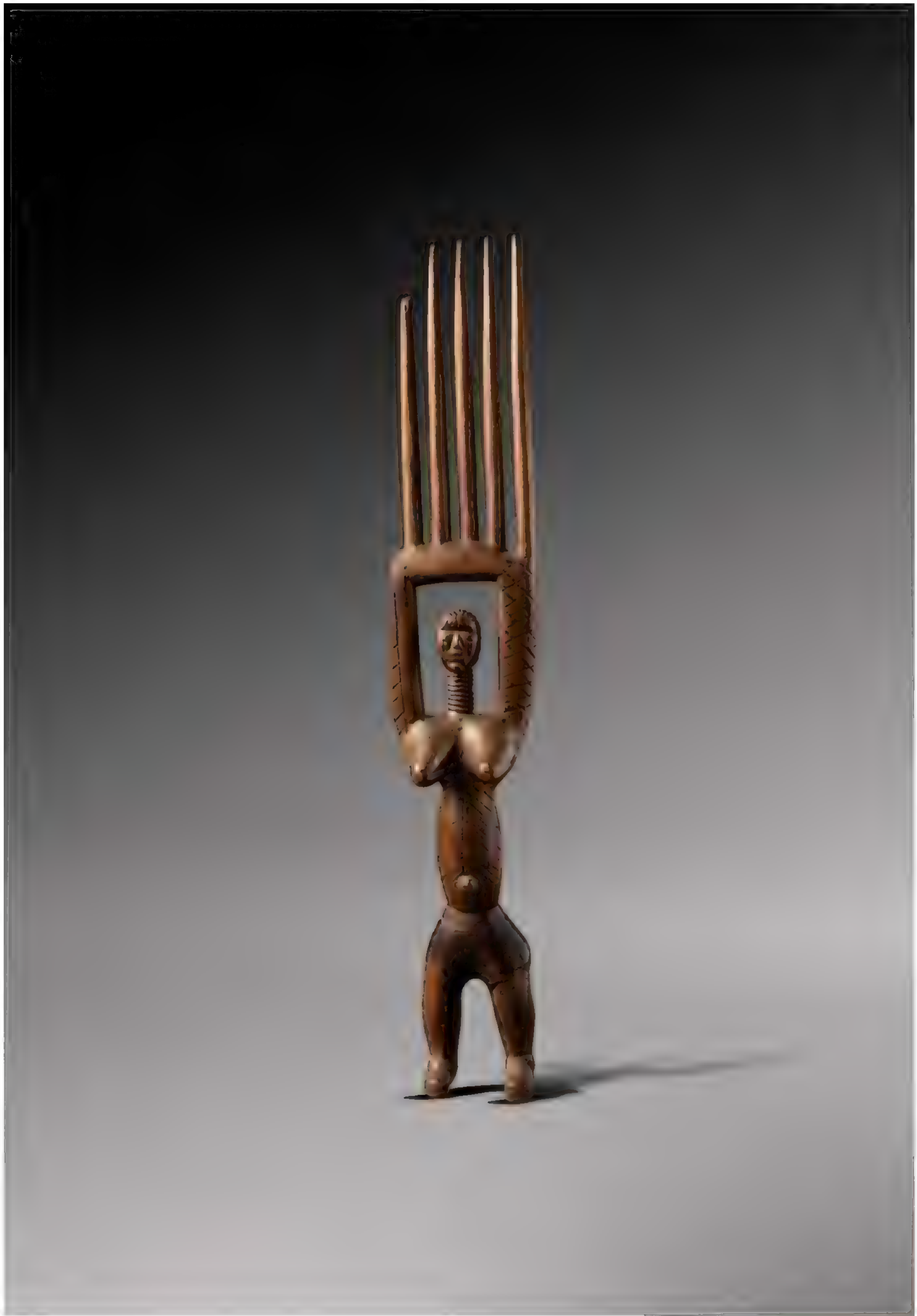
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12

DAYAK JACKET

Jacket
Dayak
Kalimantan, Indonesia
Circa 1900
Cotton needlework and bark cloth
lined
47 cm (L.) x 42 cm (W.)
Price on request

The Dayak peoples wore jackets like this one on special occasions that marked milestones such as birth, marriage, harvests, and death. Clothing with spirit motifs like those depicted here were reserved for those of the upper classes in their society.

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13

DAYAK PADDLE

Paddle

Dayak

Borneo

Early 20th century

Wood

128,3 cm x 10 cm x 3 cm

Price: 1.800 USD

This hardwood Dayak paddle from Borneo features elegantly carved decorative patterns and dates to the early 20th century.

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14

DJENNE FIGURE

Figure

Djenne, Mali

10th century

Bronze

Height: 3,5 cm

Provenance:

Private collection, France

Galerie Olivier Castellano, Paris

Price: 4.000 euros

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15

GUATEMALAN MASK

Mask

Guatemala

Wood

19,6 cm x 13,9 cm x 8,2 cm

Price: 1.500 USD

“Primitive” Guatemalan mask with a German Expressionist aesthetic.

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16

GURUNG MASK

Mask

Gurung

Nepal

19th century - early 20th century

Wood

Height: 23 cm

Provenance:

Gustavo Gili - Rosa Amorós, Spain

Publications:

Tableau. Fine Arts Magazine, April 1999

Expo. Cat.: Enigmas de las Montañas.

Màscaras Tribales del Himalaya.

Fundación Antonio Pérez

Cuenca 2005. Centre Culturel de

Guyancourt

França. 2006. PP. 86-87. N° 25

Price on request

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17

IBEJI FIGURES

Ibeji twin figures
Yoruba, Omu Aran style
Igbomina area, Nigeria
Early 20th century
Carved wood, pigments, fabrics,
cowries
Height: 29 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, the Netherlands
Pierre Darteville, Brussels
Private collection, Paris
Price on request

The statuettes linked to twin worship, are called ere ibeji in the Yoruba language: ere signifying a sacred image, ibi born and eji a double. Symbols of prestige, wealth and fecundity, ere ibeji figures also guaranteed the perpetuation of future generations. These effigies were an integral part of everyday activities, punctuating the family life of the Yoruba. Subject to very codified rituals, ere ibeji figures were pampered, with their care including feeding, washing and oiling. They were considered to be living beings. Representations always showed them at the peak of their strength and power in adulthood.

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18

IJO MASK

Mask

Ijo

Nigeria

19th century

Wood

Height: 110 cm

Provenance:

Lance and Roberta Entwistle, London

Vandenkerckhove collection, Brussels

Price on request

Water spirits (owuamapu) play an important role in the religious ideas of the Ijo. Annually, celebrations are held in honor of the water spirits that last several days, either at the beginning of the year or at the time of the rains, in order to gain their goodwill and ensure the well-being of the group.

Ijo masks not only represent specific water creatures, but also anthropomorphic figures or hybrid creatures with features of different animals, and sometimes human features. The compositional possibilities are endless and this has resulted in a variety of highly original masks.

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19

INUIT KAYAK MODEL

Kayak model

Inuit

Alaska or Greenland

Early 20th century

Wood, marine ivory, hide

Length: 54 cm

Provenance:

Private collection, Paris

TAS exclusive price: 1.000 euros

Archaeology in the Far North has provided evidence that kayaks date back at least 2,000 years. These hunting and fishing vessels were used to stealthily approach seals, walruses, and whales. In rivers and lakes, kayaks also allowed hunters to approach caribou migrating in the middle of the current. Additionally, they were used for fishing and transporting passengers and goods.

Kayaks occupy a prominent place in the life of the Arctic peoples. According to Frank Andrew, "kayaks were crucial for survival at that time. They were used for hunting but also for gathering food. They had multiple uses. Nevertheless, the primary function of these kayaks was hunting and transportation, enabling access to various food sources along the coasts.

Kayaks were not seen as mere utilitarian objects. Each kayak was made to the dimensions of its owner and decorated with family motifs. The kayak was considered like a living entity, with the frame likened to a skeleton and the surface (seal skin) to skin. The kayak and the hunter were connected in both life and death. No man could marry until he had brought back a seal from his hunt, thus proving his qualities as a good hunter.

When the hunter died, his kayak was placed on his grave, signifying the everlasting connection between the two.

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20

KACHINA DOLL

Shalako Katsina doll

Zuni

New Mexico, USA

Carved wood, pigments, fabric, wool

Circa 1940-1950

Height : 32 cm

Provenance:

Galerie Flak, Paris

Private collection, Paris

TAS exclusive price: 3.800 euros

This carved figure depicts Shalako, one of the most important Kachina (*Katsina*) spirits in the Zuni pantheon.

The Zuni ceremonial cycle is centered around planting and harvesting. It culminates in early December with the entrance of the Shalakos, or Couriers of the Gods, in tall, feathered costumes topped by headdresses. All day and night Shalakos enter homes dancing and chanting, and receive bountiful amounts of food from each host.

As noted by Barton Wright in "Esprit Kachina", 2003, six Shalakos can come during the winter ceremony. They are nearly ten feet tall and their arrival is announced by the Little Fire God, *Shulawitsi*. They dance in houses that are newly constructed or renovated conferring their blessings on the place.

When the Shalakos leave the village, it signals the end of one cycle and the renewal of another.

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21

LITHIC BLADES COLLECTION

A large collection of ancient stone
blades from various cultures and
periods

Length: 18 cm (largest)

Price on request

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22

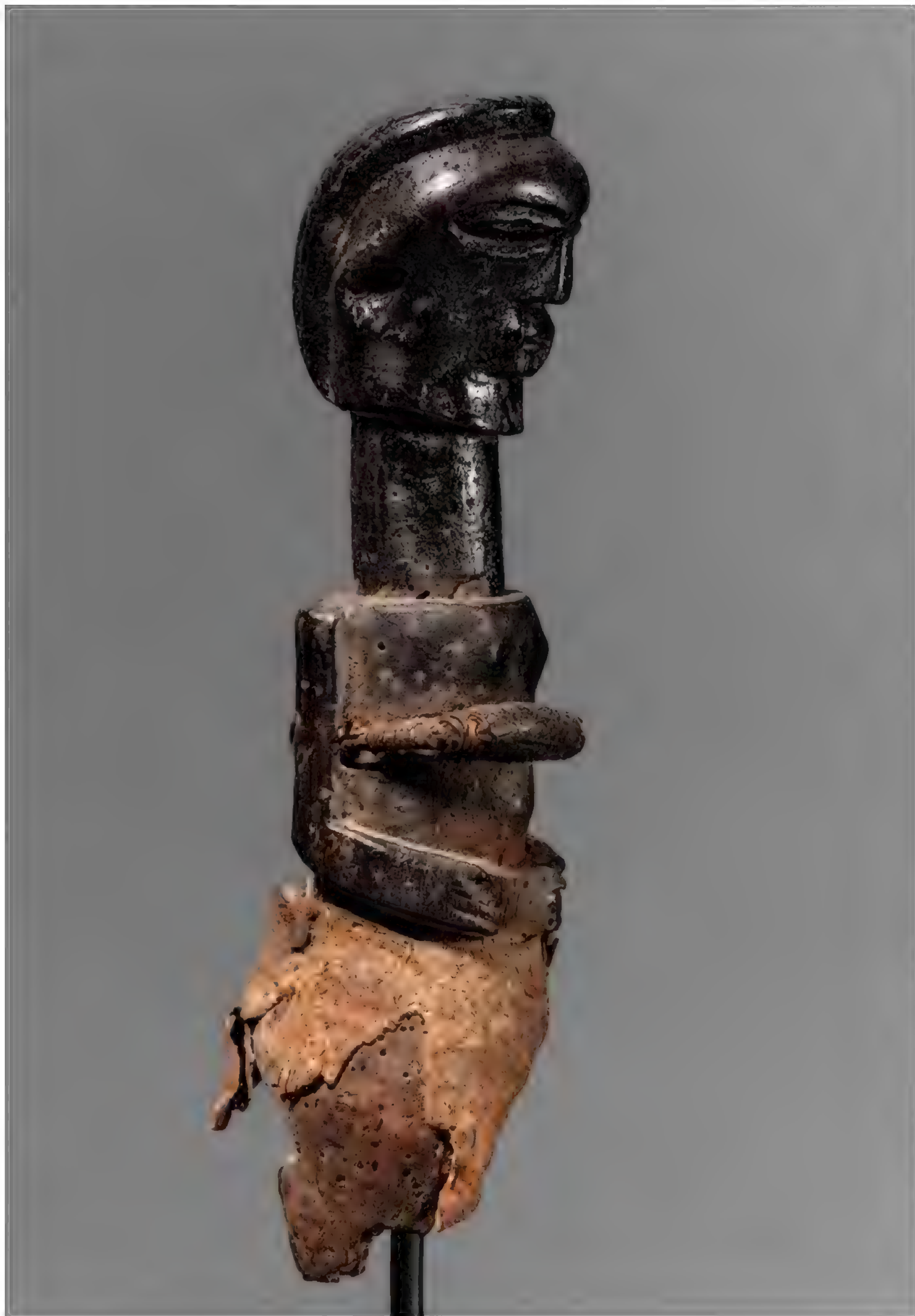
SONGYE FIGURE

Figure
Songye
D.R. of the Congo
19th century
Height: 24,1 cm
Provenance:
American collection
Price on request

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23

TAMI BOWL

Bowl

Tami Island / Huon Gulf, Morobe
Province, P.N.G.

20th century

Carved wood and pigments

Length: 80 cm

Height: 14 cm

TAS exclusive price: 600 euros

Large wooden bowls from the Huon Gulf in Papua New Guinea were the subject of intense exchanges between the human groups of the region.

The tradition of carving these large receptacles - both functional and ceremonial - seems to have originated in the Tami Islands and then spread throughout the Huon Gulf. Examples of these bowls have been found as far as the center of the Sepik region and across New Britain to the north.

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24

ZULU CLUB

Club with fluted head

Zulu

South Africa

19th century

One small crack in the head

Height: 65 cm tall

Head: 9 cm x 7 cm x 8 cm

Price: 600 euros

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CIVILISATIONS

BRUSSELS ART FAIR



05
06

09
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24

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